(e) in view of the (c) above, no action is to be taken by Central Government.

Benefits of Technology and Expertise to Local Farmers

1537. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken to extend technology and expertise of the Agricultural Universities/Research Institutes to the local farmers direct to enable them to gain by their experiences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have taken up the following frontline extension programmes for the purpose:—

(1) Established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) with the State Agricultural Universities (SAU), ICAR Institutes, non-governmental organizations (NGO), other educational institutions, and a few State Governments and corporate bodies. The activities of KVK include technology evaluation and impact assessment through on-farm testing and front-line demonstration; and its dissemination through training of farmers and in-service personnel. During 1998-99, these KVKs have organized:—

(i) 10,696 training courses benefiting 2.58 lakhs farmers;

(ii) 2,502 vocational training courses benefiting 45,909 youths;

(iii) 1,224 training programmes benefiting 21,917 extension functionaries to update their knowledge;

(iv) 51,765 extension activities such as kisan melas, field days, exhibitions, kisan goshties, radio and TV talks, film shows etc.;

(v) 145 KVKs brought out monthly newsletters/quarterly news bulletins.

(2) The Council have taken up a proposal to strengthen the existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take up the additional functions of KVK in 53 districts where there is no KVK, to provide a strong linkage between technology generation, assessment and refinement, and dissemination.

(3) The Council have recently sanctioned for establishment of 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) with the selected SAUs and ICAR Institutes to provide a single window support system to provide

solutions to the farmers and make available all technological information alongwith technology products for their testing and use.

(4) A project on Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) has been launched by the Council at 42 centres of SAUs and ICAR Intitutes to facilitate scientists farmer linkage.

Besides, all the SAUs have their own Directorates of Extension to undertake various activities for dissemination of technology to the farmers, which include farm advisory services, training of farmers and inservice personnel, adaptive trials on farmers' fields, field days, front-line demonstrations, kisan melas, workshops, diagnostic services, special campaigns, publication of extension literatures and technical support to TV and Radio programmes.

Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana

1538. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain State Governments, including that of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh have requested the Central Government for increasing the Central contribution in respect of payments required to be made to the farmers afflicted with crop-failures under the Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals made by Maharashtra and other State Governments; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some States including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have requested the Government for changes in financial implications including increase in Central Government's contribution under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). These are:

1. The sharing pattern between Government of India and State Government should be continued as 2:1 as against 1:1 under NAIS.

2. The creation of "Corpus Fund" is not justifiable and may be dropped.